

SH GUN 2002

SPECIAL EDITION - THE YEAR IN REVIEW



18th WG commander reflects on year's accomplishments

By Brig. Gen. Jeffrey A. Remington
18th Wing commander

As 2002 draws to a close, and Team Kadena begins another year of excellence, I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for your role in preserving peace and stability in this region and throughout the world.

The past 12 months represent a historical period in the defense of freedom and democracy as the United States led the charge against terrorism. Because of your efforts, our military forces captured, arrested and rid the world of thousands of terrorists, destroyed their training camps and saved thousands from starvation.

Here on Kadena, our operations tempo was always high, but this year we went from military power to after burner. Together we participated in the first back-to-back Air and Space Expeditionary Force deployments, numbers five and seven, in support of Operation Southern Watch. We also earned high marks on the Unit Compliance Inspection, hosted the largest outreach program on Okinawa, initiated a comprehensive reorganization plan and witnessed change in leadership in four of our five groups.

Our troops also earned Air Force-level and Pacific Air Forces recognition. For example, our 18th Medical Group received seven Air Force awards and 16 PACAF awards. Our 18th Civil Engineer Group received five Air Force awards and topped those off with the DoD Firefighter of the Year award, while the 18th Operations Group garnered four Air Force awards, 12 PACAF awards and seven 5th Air Force awards, including NCO, SNCO and CGO of the Year. Our 18th Security Forces Squadron won two Air Force-level awards, was recognized as the "Best Large Active Duty Security Forces Unit," and was honored by Pacific Command for having the Best Anti-Terrorism Installation Program and earned an "Honorable Mention" for the Best Anti-Terrorism Installation Program in the Department of Defense.

Meanwhile, the 18th Services Squadron received Best Services Squadron, Best Officers' Club and Best Golf Program in PACAF. And the list goes on and on. We received more great news this week when PACAF announced that Kadena is its nominee for this year's Commander In Chief's Installation Excellence Award. With PACAF's nomination, Kadena will compete at Air Force-level with bases selected by other major commands. This nomination is just another validation of Kadena's excellence.

As PACAF's largest and finest wing, our mission remains the same...to provide peace and stability in the region and continue to defend American and Japanese mutual interests. We accomplish this by providing a responsive staging and operational air base with integrated, deployable, forward-based airpower.

Our mission is to fly and fix aircraft...and during this year we adopted a new organizational structure. The two distinct changes were the creation of the 18th Maintenance Group, which improved our ability to maintain aircraft and equipment, and the consolidation of the logistics, readiness and mobility functions under the 18th Mission Support Group, which greatly improves our expeditionary capabilities.

Our 18th Mission Support Group, now the largest group in the Air Force, enables us to establish our operational presence anywhere in the world to enable combat airpower.

In May, more than 140 inspectors from the PACAF Inspector General's team took a close look at 28 squadrons that were part of our wing and evaluated each for compliance with Air Force and local instructions, guidelines and safety regulations. Of the 28 units, 22 earned "Excellent" or "Outstanding" ratings, which equated to an overall "Excellent" rating for the wing. The inspection marks the second consecutive UCI in which our wing has earned high marks.

Even as the inspectors were leaving, Team Kadena was gearing up for our largest community outreach program, the Kadena Special Olympics. On

June 1, we saw more than 7,500 people flood the Riser Fitness Complex for this year's games. That number included 650 special needs athletes, hundreds of volunteers, and special guests from Okinawan Governor Keiichi Inamine and from Sargent Shriver, former U.S. ambassador to France and chairman of the board for Special Olympics.

More than 3,200 Kadena people, including those from the operations, maintenance, medical, mission support and civil engineer groups and associate units — the 353rd Special Operations Group, 733rd Air Mobility Squadron, 82nd Reconnaissance Squadron, 390th Intelligence Squadron and the Navy's Commander Fleet Activities, Okinawa — deployed to more than 50 locations around the world during 2002 in support of operations and exercises. These included Enduring Freedom, Noble Eagle, Phoenix Banner, Pony Express, and AEFs.

We train to fight, and when called to defend America from terror and to eliminate the threat of future attacks, Kadena units were one of the first to respond. Fifteen months ago the shadow of fear lay darkly across the world. Those were anxious days for mankind and some wondered aloud whether our society could survive.

And we paid a price. Two of our 353rd SOG teammates lost their lives while supporting Enduring Freedom in the Philippines. These men paid the ultimate price. Their courage, dedication and commitment to preserving our freedom and democracy will never be forgotten.

Their dedication to their country was an example of the heart and soul of everyone who works and lives at Kadena. Your heart and soul are what makes Kadena special. Our accomplishments this year were numerous and I am proud of each and every one of you.

As always, I know each of you will continue to serve your country with professionalism and honor. You are our greatest asset. Please stay safe to serve our great nation, don't drink and drive.

SECAF, CSAF send troops joint holiday greetings

By Dr. James Roche and
Gen. John Jumper
Air Force secretary and chief of staff

In this season of thanksgiving and reverent celebration, we send our warmest wishes to our entire Air Force team of Active, Guard, Reserve, Civilian, and Retired airmen, and to your loved ones and families.

As defenders of America, we salute you for your honor, courage, and commitment — values worthy of our nation's deepest gratitude and profound respect. For each of you who vol-

untarily wear the uniform of our nation, this holiday season offers General Jumper and I an opportunity to simply say — thank you.

To those separated from loved ones during this special time of year — whether a result of a deployment or mobilization — we send our heartfelt appreciation for your sacrifice and willingness to bear the burdens of freedom. Your devoted service underscores all that is great about America.

And in an era of grave new challenges to the values of liberty and equality, you represent the strength of

this diverse land, and symbolize all that is good about your generation. Wherever you are stationed or deployed, we urge you to reflect on the abundant blessings and privileges we enjoy as Americans. Indeed, we are richly blessed. But with such riches come responsibility; the responsibility to preserve and defend freedom-loving people, and to ready ourselves for the future battles we must fight for our nation.

In this season of giving and thanks, take a few moments to reflect on the value your gift of service brings to

every man, woman, and child in America and around the globe. Your gift is freedom, and all who live under its protective wings benefit from this great offering of peace and hope. Whether you live here in the United States, or are stationed in a foreign land, the shelter and security of the Stars and Stripes goes with you.

To all members of the world's greatest Air Force, we offer our most sincere thanks for all that you do for America. We wish you a safe and happy holiday season, and hope for peace in the New Year. Happy holidays!



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ON THE COVER: Tech. Sgt. Ronald O'Steen, a member of Kadena's 320th Special Tactics Squadron, salutes his lost friends, Master Sgt. William McDaniel and Staff Sgt. Juan Ridout, during a memorial service here Feb. 27. O'Steen saluted his fallen comrades after placing his beret flash on a memorial display in the pararescue-men's honor. McDaniel and Ridout died in a helicopter crash in the Philippines Feb. 22. (Photo by Airman 1st Class Georgina Jones; cover design by Staff Sgt. Marc Barnes)



Air Force/Staff Sgt. Mary Smith
Rep. Dennis Hastert (R-III.) greets Airman 1st Class Jerry Rademacher, 961st Airborne Air Control Squadron airborne surveillance technician, during a visit to Kadena Jan. 12. Hastert was accompanied by Reps. Kay Granger (R-Texas), Roy Blunt (R-Mo.) and Jennifer Dunn (R-Wash.).



Air Force/Airman 1st Class Georgina Jones
Airman 1st Class Vince Remo, from Bolling Air Force Base, Washington D.C., and Airman 1st Class Spencer Masslieno-Allen, from Elmendorf AFB, Alaska, sing a duet during the Air Force Tops In Blue performance of "The Magic of Music" at Schilling Recreation Center Jan. 3. The 18th Services Squadron sponsored the event.

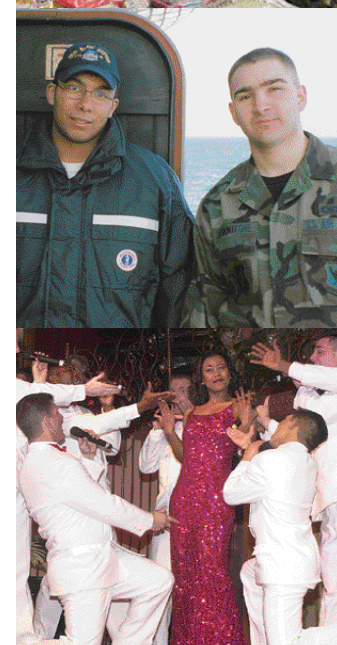


Air Force/Tech. Sgt. Vincent Parker
A Kadena firefighter sprays down burnt cars at an auto salvage yard in Chatan Town Jan. 6. More than 30 firefighters from the 18th Civil Engineer Squadron joined Japanese and Marine firefighters to extinguish the blaze, which was threatening nearby homes.



Air Force/Amn. Paul Fabrie
Gen. William Begert, Pacific Air Forces commander, talks to Kadena people during a commander's call at the Base Theater Jan. 7. The visit was Begert's first official visit to Kadena since taking command of PACAF at Hickam Air Force Base, Hawaii in May 2001.

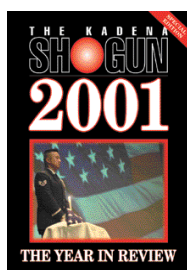
QUICK shots



JANUARY 11

• Last year's "Year in Review" reminded Kadena of events that occurred throughout the year, most notably the emergency landing of a Navy EP-3 on Hainan Island after being hit by a Chinese jet, and the base's response to the events on Sept. 11, 2001. The issue also highlighted dozens of the best photos run in The Kadena Shogun in 2001.

• Former 18th Wing commander, Brig. Gen. Gary North, highlighted dozens of wing and associate unit accomplishments throughout 2001, including the base's recognition as a nominee for the Installation Excellence Award, milestones of growth between the American and Okinawan community and numerous major command, Air Force and Department of Defense awards.



JANUARY 18

• Kadena firefighters joined local Okinawan and U.S. Marine firefighters to fight a fire in a Chatan Town auto salvage yard Jan. 6.

• This issue highlighted Gen. William Begert's visit to Kadena Jan. 3-7 as he shared his vision for Pacific Air Forces with Kadena's airmen. It was the general's second visit to Kadena since taking command of PACAF.

• Tops in Blue performed its "Magic of Music" routine during a two-day stop at Kadena's Schilling Recreation Center Jan. 3-4.

• U.S. House of Representatives Speaker Rep. Dennis Hastert (R-III.) visited Kadena Jan. 12 with Reps. Kay Granger (R-Texas), Roy Blunt (R-Mo.) and Jennifer Dunn (R-Wash.).



JANUARY 25

• Master Sgt. Bianca Brickhouse, 718th Civil Engineer Squadron superintendent of unaccompanied housing, was recognized at the Air Force Outstanding Housing Employee of the Year for 2001.

• Airman 1st Class Jonathan DeMontegre, an 18th Wing command post operator, described life aboard a Navy ship after returning from a brief stint aboard the Navy's 7th Fleet flagship, the USS Blue Ridge. DeMontegre joined other airmen from 5th Air Force to experience Navy life aboard the ship as it traveled from Yokosuka Naval Base, Japan, to a port outside the harbor of Hong Kong.

• Retired Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force Robert Gaylor visited the base and was a special guest at the chief's induction ceremony at the Rocker NCO Club Jan. 19. The chief also toured Okuma Resort in northern Okinawa during his visit.



QUICK shots



Air Force/Chiaki Iramina

Masaaki Yamauchi thanks his rescuers, Robert Childs and Staff Sgts. Matthew Rockstad and Shane Griego, after a ceremony honoring the men at the Itoman City Police Department in late January. Childs, Rockstad and Griego were honored by the city for rescuing Yamauchi while on a diving trip to Odo Beach in Itoman City. Yamauchi was stranded as the tide rose and the divers returned him safely to shore.



Courtesy Photo



Navy/Petty Office 3rd Class James C. Davis

ABOVE: A sailor aboard the USS Essex guides a 33rd Rescue Squadron Pave Hawk as it lands on the amphibious assault ship during a medical evacuation Feb. 5. The rescue aboard the USS Essex was only one of several the 33rd RQS performed in 2002. LEFT: Lt. Col. (Dr.) George Martin poses for a photo during a trip to the South Pole. The Kadena-based doctor deployed to Antarctica to provide medical care to Air Force flight crews and civilian scientists and contractors at three U.S. stations there.

FEBRUARY 1

- Staff Sgts. Matthew Rockstad and Shane Griego, along with Robert Childs, were recognized by the Itoman City Police Department for rescuing a drowning Okinawan fisherman. The 56-year old man said he had walked too far from shore while the tides were changing and got stranded. The three Americans rushed to his aid and received countless thanks from the fisherman's family.

- More than 25 Air Force Reserve crew chiefs from the 940th Air Refueling Squadron at Beale Air Force Base, Calif., spent 12 days helping the 909th ARS here at Kadena.



FEBRUARY 8

- Tech. Sgt. Todd Brown saved one of his classmates, Darrell Singleton, from choking during a class held at the NCO Academy. Singleton had swallowed a pain pill when it became lodged in his windpipe. Brown jumped to his aid, and administered the Heimlich Maneuver. The pill flew out and Singleton was saved.

- Eight Kadena Language Institute students finished up a two-week internship with various units across Kadena.

- Lt. Col. (Dr.) George Martin, a 353rd Special Operations Group doctor, returned to Kadena after spending two weeks working at the South Pole.



FEBRUARY 15

- A 33rd Rescue Squadron crew evacuated a sailor aboard the USS Essex after medics detected signs of a heart condition.

- Kadena mourned the death of Mark Jovi Jr., who was killed in a motorcycle accident in Yomitan Village.

- More than 300 inspectors from units across the base conducted a Unit Self Inspection Validation earlier in the month. The inspection turned up 1,600 findings or areas of improvement out of more than 19,000 areas checked.

- Volunteers geared up for the annual Okinawa Marathon, a portion of which passes through the base.



FEBRUARY 22

- Kadena's first FebFest drew nearly 4,000 people. Some of the highlights of the festival included a unit bed race, talent show, various rides and games and musical performances.

- Medics from the 18th Medical Group aided in the air evacuation of a newborn baby with a life threatening condition.

- Hiroyuki Sakai, a.k.a. the "Iron Chef", visited Kadena. The Kagoshima, Japan, native cooked up special dishes to a sell-out audience at the Officers' Club on Valentine's Day.





Air Force/Master Sgt. Val Gempis

Master Sgt. James Warden, 18th Security Forces Squadron flight leader, patrols the flightline in a squad car to ensure only authorized personnel are allowed in the restricted area.



Air Force/Staff Sgt. Mary Smith

An Army sergeant salutes as Kadena-based airmen carry the casket of a service member who died in a helicopter crash in the Philippines Feb. 22. The Army MH-47 Chinook was en route from Basilan Island to Mactan during a mission supporting America's war on terrorism. Two Kadena airmen died in the crash (see top center photo).



Air Force/Chiaki Iramina

Airman 1st Class Larry Monk, 18th Mission Support Squadron commander's support staff, reads stories for children at Amelia Earhart Intermediate School on Kadena. Monk volunteered to read books at the school as part of the base's Black History Month activities.



Courtesy photo

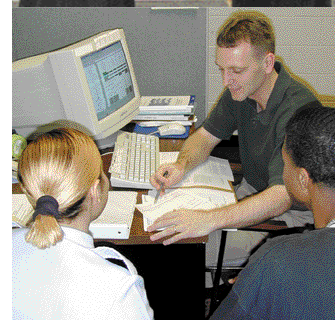
Air Force Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps cadet Cols. Jason Galvez and Josephine Becham inspect Cadet Tech. Sgt. Kia Mason and Cadet Staff Sgt. Veronica Oprecio during an open ranks inspection at Kadena High School.



Air Force/Chiaki Iramina

Mark Myers, 18th Security Forces Squadron, attempts to sink a putt while Kevin Halstead, also of the 18th SFS, looks on during the Special Olympics golf tournament fundraiser at Banyan Tree Golf Course March 1. More than 140 golfers raised \$3,000 for the 2002 Kadena Okinawa Special Olympic Games.

QUICK shots



MARCH 1

- The remains of three service members killed in the Philippines passed through Kadena Feb. 22.
- Master Sgt. David Nyitrai and the 733rd Air Mobility Squadron were recognized for their contributions to Air Force safety.
- Three Kadena O-5s were selected for promotion to colonel.
- The 18th Wing historian recounted the efforts of the 18th Fighter-Bomber Wing during the Korean War.



MARCH 8

- Members of the 329th Special Tactics Squadron honored two of their comrades who died in the Philippines during a mission supporting Operation Enduring Freedom.
- The 18th Communications Squadron introduced a new Web site "Smart Filter" to filter out unofficial sites.
- The 909th Air Refueling Squadron displayed new "Let's Roll" art on the nose of its flagship.



MARCH 15

- More than 150 children from the Eiko Kindergarten visited Kadena's Marek Park March 7.
- Master Sgt. William Smith, 18th Operations Support Squadron, was selected as Air Force's best intelligence senior NCO.
- The 390th Intelligence Squadron, 18th Munitions Squadron and 18th Maintenance Squadron received Air Force maintenance effectiveness awards.



MARCH 22

- Kadena tax center staff shifted into overdrive as last few weeks of tax filing wound down.
- The Air Force named Tech. Sgt. Shawn Steff, 18th Munitions Squadron, its best missile maintainer of the year.
- The Air Force announced the names of 47 Kadena master sergeants who were selected for promotion to E-8.
- The 18th Security Forces Squadron prepared for the upcoming road tax season.



MARCH 29

- Medics from the 18th Medical Group took the initiative to teach Japanese to eager students in the group.
- Air Force Academy scholars spoke to Kadena airmen about 10 ways to 'get rich.'
- A T-33 vintage aircraft returned to Kadena after a 30-year absence.
- 18th Wing Inspector General office geared up for the upcoming Unit Compliance Inspection.



QUICK shots



Air Force/Staff Sgt. Mary Smith

ABOVE: Lt. Gen. Thomas Waskow (left), 5th Air Force and U.S. Forces Japan commander, returns a salute from the incoming 18th Wing Commander Brig. Gen. Jeffrey Remington April 10 in the 961st Airborne Air Control Squadron hangar as Chief Master Sgt. Christopher Dobbins, then 18th Wing command chief, looks on. **LEFT:** A tornado struck the O'Donnell Gardens housing area April 3. Here, a resident's car lies overturned in the housing area. Weather forecasters had no time to issue a warning before the tornado uprooted trees and overturned vehicles in the neighborhood.



Air Force/Senior Airman Amanda Cochran

APRIL 5

- A tornado ripped through the O'Donnell Gardens housing area at Camp Shields. Staff Sgt. Travis Walker, a security forces augmentee nearby, came to the rescue of several children in the path of the storm.

- The 18th Wing prepared for change of command ceremony.

- Four Kadena engineers and the 18th Wing Manpower and Organization Office were recognized for their efforts during the Installation Excellence Award for 2002.

- Kadena joined the 18th Services Squadron to open its new Marshall Dining Facility near Postal Service Center 80.



APRIL 12

- Brig. Gen. Jeffrey Remington took command of the 18th Wing from Brig. Gen. Gary North in a change of command ceremony at the 961st Airborne Air Control Squadron hangar April 10.

- Pacific Air Forces' Command Chief Master Sgt. Gerald Murray, soon to be named chief master sergeant of the Air Force, visited Kadena.

- Local high school students went to work in offices around Kadena as the base's summer-hire program began.

- Master Sgt. Tom Britt, 353rd Special Operations Group, coordinated efforts of Joint Task Force 510 in the Philippines.



APRIL 19

- Master Sgt. David Cunningham, 733rd Air Mobility Squadron, was named best Air Force Command Post Senior NCO.

- Jeremiah Walker's display of musical talent earned him a trip to compete at the Boys and Girls Club of America National Conference in Atlanta. Walker's father is Chief Master Sgt. Eppie Walker of the 18th Civil Engineer Group.

- Morgan Buterbaugh, daughter of Lt. Col. Gregory Buterbaugh, was named Pacific Air Forces' Youth of the Year.

- Kadena volunteers prepared for upcoming Earth Week activities.

- Brig. Gen. Jeffrey Remington, outlined his goals as the 18th Wing commander.



APRIL 26

- Master Sgt. Steven Keck and his wife, Nancy were both nominated for major command-level awards. The duo joked about who would beat out the other for an Air Force-level award first.

- Master Sgt. Mark Hawes, 353rd Special Operations Group financial manager, was named the top financial manager in the Air Force.

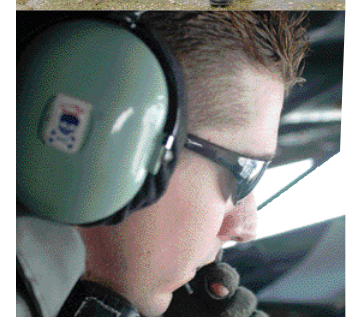
- Pacific Air Forces officials announced that contractors would be taking over the records, awards and decorations and personnel systems management sections of the Military Personnel Flight.



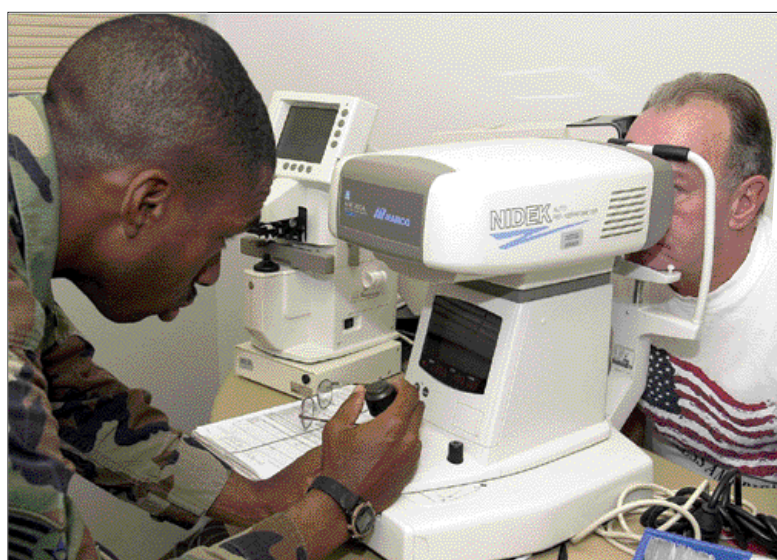


Master Sgt. Kenneth Nora, Kadena men's dragon boat team coach, pounds a drum for team members to row in rhythm during the 2002 Naha Dragon Boat Races May 5 at Naha Military Port. The team finished first in the men's military services competition, while the Kadena women's team finished second in their competition with two Okinawan teams.

QUICK shots



Air Force/Master Sgt. Michael Farris Chief Master Sgt. Steve Hartley, former 353rd Special Operations Group command chief, hands a doll to a child at the Phasuk Community Care Center in Udon Thani, Thailand.



Air Force/Senior Airman Amanda Cochran Staff Sgt. Fred McCree, 18th Aerospace Medicine Squadron, performs an eye test on Jerry Shirley at the Optometry Clinic. The 18th AMDS was recognized in May for winning the Air Force's 2001 Team Aerospace Award.

MAY 10

- Kadena started the Airman Against Drunk Driving initiative that offers free rides home for people who have had too much to drink.
- The base continued last-minute preparations for the upcoming Pacific Air Forces Unit Compliance Inspection.

- This week, the Shogun highlighted the efforts of Tech. Sgt. Mike Smith, an aerospace ground equipment craftsman deployed to the Philippines in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

- Airman 1st Class Trinkle Cash, 18th Communications Squadron, was found guilty of multiple use and distribution of ecstasy and assault of another airman.



MAY 17

- PACAF Unit Compliance Inspection teams tested the 18th Wing's ability to perform its mission, including a major accident response exercise.

- First Lt. Steven Rose, 353rd Maintenance Logistics Support Flight commander, was named the Air Force's Junior Supply Officer of the Year.

- The 18th Logistics Readiness Squadron's Vehicle Maintenance Flight was named the Air Force's 2001 Maintenance Unit of the Year.

- Four of Kadena's schools once again earned top marks on their latest "report cards" — earning full accreditation.



MAY 24

- PACAF inspectors announced that the 18th Wing earned an "Excellent" rating on the Unit Compliance Inspection. Of 29 units inspected, 22 earned "Excellent" or "Outstanding" ratings.

- A dozen members from the 353rd Special Operations Group went on a special mission to give gifts to Thai citizens.

- The 18th Logistics Readiness Squadron's Vehicle Operations flight was recognized as the Air Force's Vehicle Operations Flight of the Year.

- Brig. Gen. Jeffrey Remington, 18th Wing commander, urged residents to stay safe and have fun during "101 Critical Days of Summer."



MAY 31

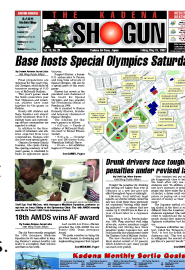
- The 18th Aerospace Medicine Squadron wins Air Force's 2001 Team Aerospace award.

- A new law, scheduled to go into effect at midnight May 31, included stiffer penalties for drunken drivers.

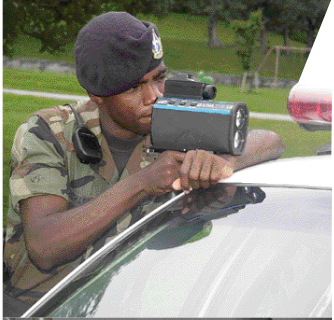
- Kadena geared up for the Kadena Okinawa Special Olympic games, which began June 1.

- Nearly 150 aircrew and support people from Kadena took part in Maple Flag 2002, which simulated a United Nations coalition force and was based in Canada.

- Several members of the 353rd Special Operations Group took part in the first major exercise between the Indian and U.S. armed forces in nearly five years.



QUICK shots



Air Force/Staff Sgt. Mary Smith
A Kadena High School graduate hugs a classmate after graduating during a commencement ceremony June 7 at the Okinawa Civic Center. More than 150 graduating KDHS seniors marched across the stage to receive their diplomas as hundreds of friends and family members looked on.



Air Force/Tech. Sgt. Vincent Parker
An Okinawan Special Olympian celebrates the start of the 2002 Kadena Okinawa Special Olympic Games June 1 at McDonald Stadium on Kadena. More than 650 Special Olympians participated in the event.



Air Force/Staff Sgt. Mary Smith
Indian Army Col. Paramjit Singh, 4th Parachute Regiment commander, discusses a personnel air delivery mission with Maj. Manny Candelaria (left) and Lt. Col. Gregory Buterbaugh, from Kadena's 1st Special Operations Squadron, during joint training with Indian armed forces at Air Force Station Agra, India.



Air Force/Airman 1st Class Georgina Jones
Brig. Gen. Jeffrey Remington, 18th Wing commander, talks with Kadena airmen June 18 during a commander's call. Remington talked about upcoming reorganization changes to the wing and other current issues with Kadena military members and civilian employees.

JUNE 7

• Kadena held its third annual Special Olympic Games June 1. More than 7,500 people flooded the Risner Fitness Center complex to take part in the event.

• Lt. Col. Kevin Gallagher became only the 24th fighter pilot in the world to reach 3,000 hours in an F-15 Eagle.

• Brig. Gen. Jeffrey Remington, 18th Wing commander, grants a day off after the wing earned an "excellent" rating on the Pacific Air Forces Unit Compliance Inspection and met the monthly flying-hour contract.

• Six medical specialists from Kadena were recognized by the Air Force as the best in their business.



JUNE 14

• The body of slain American missionary Martin Burnham passed through Kadena on its way to California. Burnham was killed by Abu Sayef terrorists during a rescue attempt in the Philippines.

• Kadena workers waited for the call to go home in preparation of a direct typhoon hit, but were disappointed to find out that the storm would not be coming. Typhoon Noguri fizzled out as it passed by Okinawa. The strongest winds recorded at Kadena were 34 knots (approximately 39 mph).

• Fifth Air Force officials urge residents to keep their eyes open for terrorist activity using the Eagle Eyes program.



JUNE 21

• 18th Wing officials announced Aug. 15 as the target date for the wing's reorganization.

• The 18th Security Forces Squadron was named the Air Force's Outstanding Large Security Forces Unit of the Year.

• Okinawan officials announced that water restrictions will not be enforced. According to local officials, this year's rainy season had been one of the driest in nearly eight years before a heavy downpour came June 20-21.

• Staff Sgt. Rodney Wilson, 18th Operations Support Squadron, was named the Air Force's Air Traffic Control Watch Supervisor of the Year.



JUNE 28

• More than 370 people found out this week that they would be putting on a higher rank — including promotions to major, technical sergeant or master sergeant.

• Master Sgt. Mark Myers was named the Air Force's Security Forces Senior NCO of the Year.

• While deployed to the Philippines, 353rd Special Operations Group members donate clothing and toys to needy families.

• 18th Medical Group officials urged Kadena workers to adopt good Operational Risk Management practices.

• Kadena medics advised residents to be careful during the hot summer season.



QUICK shots



Air Force/Chiaki Iramina

Alexis Hessinger races Shanita and Tequila Fluker across Hagerstrom Pool. The pool is part of the 18th Services Squadron's outdoor recreation program, which was named the Air Force's best outdoor recreation program for 2001.



Air Force/Senior Airman Amanda Cochran



Air Force/Master Sgt. Michael Farris

ABOVE: Ayako Imler goes through the paces as the English as a Second Language instructor LaRae Rodriguez listens at the Family Support Center. Dozens of military spouses attended the classes this year. LEFT: 1st Lt. Douglas Midyett, 33rd Rescue Squadron pilot, gets a welcome-home kiss from his wife, Joellyn, after returning from the Philippines in July.

JULY 5

- For the second consecutive year, the 18th Services Outdoor Recreation program was named the best in the Air Force.

- Kadena's newly refurbished Keystone Theater reopens after receiving more than \$1.3 million in improvements.

- Chip Steitz was named the Air Force's best Public Affairs civilian in the business.

- Airmen Against Drunk Driving approached 100 "saves."

- Kadena's honor guard sought new recruits.

- 18th Wing Legal officials urged service members to follow rules about selling vehicles.



JULY 12

- All hopes for clear skies, a nice fireworks display and festival on Independence Day were crushed when Typhoon Rammasun swiped through Kadena July 3-4.

- About 150 Air Force and Navy medics based in Okinawa tested their ability to work together under emergency conditions. Medical evaluators performed a one-day test with a simulated fiery bus crash involving 50 people on the west side of Kadena.

- Kadena weather officials outlined the steps for residents to follow as a typhoon approaches the island.



JULY 19

- More than 50 crew members from the 33rd Rescue Squadron returned home after spending three months in the Philippines fighting the war on terrorism.

- Kadena endured its third tropical cyclone strike in 10 days when Typhoon Halong battered Okinawa July 14 and 15. The highest recorded winds at Kadena were 99 knots, or approximately 114 mph.

- Col. David Mintz, 18th Wing inspector general, led the Regional Air Movement Control Center as it scheduled its 25,000th mission within Afghanistan.

- 18th Services Squadron stepped up its youth activities for the summer.



JULY 26

- Col. Mark Presson took command of the 18th Medical Group from Col. James Collier in a change of command ceremony July 19.

- Col. Steven Lillemon took command of the 18th Civil Engineer Squadron from Col. William Formwalt during a change of command ceremony July 23.

- Kadena spouses learned conversational English through the Family Support Center's English as a Second Language class.

- 18th Civil Engineers urge Kadena residents to install and maintain smoke detectors.



QUICK shots



Air Force/Staff Sgt. Chenzira Mallory

Marcus Wallace of the Kadena Falcons reaches out to tag Iko Hijiri of the Awase Pirates as he slides into home during the Okinawa International Baseball Festival held July 29 at the Okinawa City Baseball Field.



Air Force/Senior Airman Amanda Cochran

Gen. Ralph "Ed" Eberhart salutes members of a joint honor guard after arriving at Kadena in late July. The general stopped at Kadena during a Pacific tour and visited the 353rd Special Operations Group and the 33rd Rescue and 733rd Air Mobility squadrons.



Air Force/Chiaki Iramina

Staff Sgt. Al Owens, a medical technician with the 18th Aerospace Medicine Squadron, teaches English to some of the 70 local-area teachers attending a one-day conference held in Nishihara Town. The session was designed to show local teachers how to integrate military volunteer English instructors into their classrooms.

AUGUST 2

- The 18th Wing practiced its wartime skills during an Installation Readiness Response Exercise.

- The base mourned the loss of Amelia Earhart Intermediate School Assistant Principal Donna Della Rocca, who was killed in an auto accident while in the United States.

- This issue highlighted the July 30 change of command in the 353rd Special Operations Group. Col. Mark Transue took command of the group.



AUGUST 9

- Senior Airman Emilio Aguilar, 18th Civil Engineer Squadron, was named the Air Force's top firefighter.

- Tech. Sgt. Jeremy Kremenauer, 33rd Rescue Squadron, followed in his grandfather's footsteps by deploying to the Philippines.

- Staff Sgt. Raymond Crowell, 18th Security Forces Squadron, was named the Air Force Sergeants' Association's Spirit of Hope award winner.



AUGUST 16

- The 18th Logistics Group received a new commander when Col. Steve Brunin replaced Col. John Julsonet. The group also changed its name to the 18th Maintenance Group.

- More than 100 Okinawans visited historical sites around Kadena.

- Kadena geared up for its official reorganization ceremony under Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. John Jumper's reorganization plan.



AUGUST 23

- Three Kadena staff sergeants showcased their English-teaching abilities to Okinawan teachers.

- Staff Sgt. Curtis Cook, 18th Maintenance Squadron, and Army Sgt. 1st Class Michael O'Rourke were presented certificates of appreciation from Okinawa City Police officials after making a citizen's arrest.

- Brig. Gen. Jeffrey Remington, 18th Wing commander declared Aug. 23 an F-15 safety day.



AUGUST 30

- More than 800 people took part in the formal reorganization of the 18th Wing in the 961st Airborne Air Control Squadron hangar.

- Col. Joseph Ford took command of the 18th Operations Group from Col. Frank Gorenc Aug. 22.

- 101 Critical Days of Summer entered its final days this year.
- Fitness officials announced changes made to the Air Force weight management program.



QUICK shots



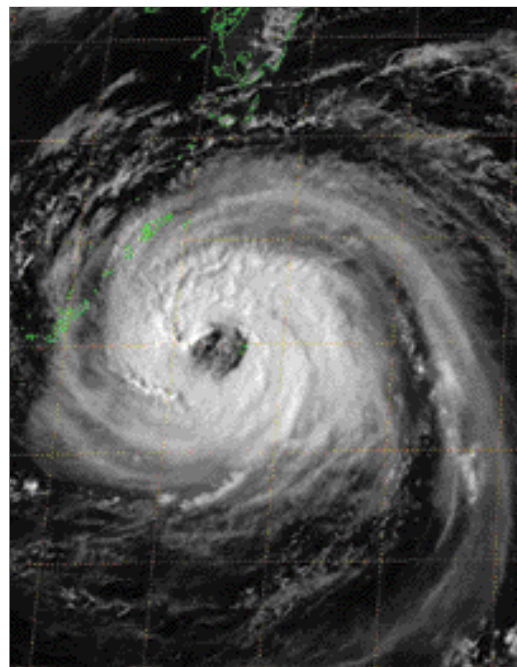
Air Force Master Sgt. Michael Farris Master Sgt. Anthony Nawrocki, a 17th Special Operations Squadron loadmaster, watches as pilots crank the engines on an MC-130P Combat Shadow at Clark Air Base in the Philippines. The unit wrapped up a Philippine deployment in September.



Air Force Staff Sgt. Chenzira Mallory Master Sgt. James Warden, 18th Security Forces Squadron NCOIC of force protection, talks to Japanese media outside Gate 2 about force protection measures taken on Kadena since the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks. Nine journalists interviewed Kadena officials about changes here since the attacks.



Air Force Staff Sgt. Chenzira Mallory Members from each branch of the U.S. military and a civilian represent America's prisoners of war and those still missing during the POW/MIA breakfast held at the Rocker NCO Club.



Air Force Typhoon Sinlaku makes its way toward Okinawa Sept. 4. The storm was the second in less than a week to target Kadena. Typhoon Rusa hit Okinawa in the early afternoon hours of Aug. 29.



SEPTEMBER 6

Kadena squared off with its second tropical cyclone in less than a week as Typhoon Sinlaku made its way toward Okinawa Sept. 4. Sinlaku was preceded by Typhoon Rusa Aug. 29.

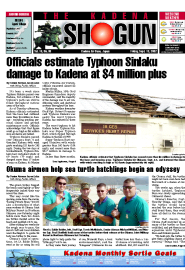
Brig. Gen. Jeffrey Remington shared his goals for the 18th Wing during several commander's calls with Kadena airmen. He also gave airmen here the opportunity to have their concerns answered during the commander's calls.



SEPTEMBER 13

Officials in the 18th Civil Engineer Group estimated that Typhoon Sinlaku caused more than \$3.5 million in damage at Kadena. The engineers said the estimate could reach as high as \$5 million after all insurance claims are tallied.

Okuma staff give 25 sea turtles a fighting chance of surviving the rough seas. The staff held onto the little green explorers for two weeks after they had hatched to prevent them from swimming out to sea during the two consecutive typhoon hits to Okinawa.



SEPTEMBER 20

Members of the 17th Special Operations Squadron returned from a Philippines deployment.

Last minute shoppers headed to clothing sales to prepare for the upcoming Air Force Ball.

Kadena's Education Center was honored by the Okinawa International Exchange and Human Resources Development Foundation for educating Okinawan students and improving international relations.

Base firefighters urged residents to pay close attention while cooking to help prevent cooking fires.



SEPTEMBER 27

Kadena held annual Prisoner of War/Missing in Action ceremony.

Kadena celebrated the Air Force's 55th birthday at Rocker NCO Club Sept. 20. More than 800 attend the special event.

Air Force Personnel Center officials talked with Kadena officers Sept. 19. The staff stressed the importance of maintaining a liaison with their assignment officers and staying flexible when assignment opportunities arise.

Combined Federal Campaign organizers outlined their goals for this year's campaign.



QUICK shots



Air Force/Chiaki Iramina

Descendants of people who lived in a neighborhood formerly known as Kaninti pray to a guardian stone during a visit to one of several sacred sites on Kadena Oct. 11. Kaninti was one of several neighborhoods located on Kadena before World War II.



Air Force/Master Sgt. Michael Farris

Chief Master Sgt. Michael Eitnier, 353rd Special Operations Group command chief, inspects a pair of night vision goggles as Staff Sgt. Anthony Rebeck, a 17th Special Operations Squadron life support technician, looks on.



Air Force/Staff Sgt. C. E. Lewis

Calib Du Guay, 7, son of Maj. Shane Du Guay, 67th Fighter Squadron, grimaces as he shows Tech. Sgt. Victor Davis, a firefighter with the 18th Civil Engineer Squadron, how he learned to put out a grease fire during the fire department's Fire Prevention Week open house Oct. 12.

OCTOBER 4

- The 18th Civil Engineer Squadron's explosive ordnance flight detonated a 5-inch explosive shell. The World War II-era shell was discovered near Torii Station, Okinawa.

- Chief Master Sgt. Michael Eitnier settled into his new job as the 353rd Special Operations Group command chief master sergeant.

- Courtesy patrol officials donned a new blue armband to help identify themselves to others.

- Kadena firefighters geared up for National Fire Prevention Week, Oct. 6-12.



OCTOBER 11

- The remains of an Army soldier killed in the Philippines passed through Kadena Oct. 3. Sgt. 1st Class Mark Jackson was killed in a terrorist attack in Zamboanga, Philippines, on Oct. 2.

- Kadena's Combined Federal Campaign kicked off this week.

- Nearly 500 people recorded Army and Air Force Hometown News holiday greetings for their loved ones in the United States.

- Kadena's clinic began giving patients who are billed for treatment at the clinic itemized bills for services and procedures performed.



OCTOBER 18

- Kadena officials agreed to resume visits to sacred sites on the base for Okinawan residents. Visits to the base were put on hold after Sept. 11, 2001, for security reasons.

- The Kadena Shogun highlighted Fire Prevention Week activities. Nearly 3,000 people brushed up on their fire prevention skills during various events held with Kadena firefighters throughout the week.

- More than 8,000 people are forecasted to attend the first Okumafest held over the weekend at Okuma Resort in northern Okinawa. Highlights of the festival include a performance by the Diamantes, magic



OCTOBER 25

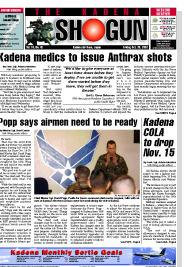
show and a laser light show.

- Pacific Air Forces' Command Chief Master Sgt. David Popp visited Kadena. "Be ready (to deploy)," he said. "It's going to require all of us to fight a war on terrorism."

- Kadena medics gear up to distribute anthrax shots to deploying airmen next week.

- Air Force officials announce that the Cost of Living Allowance for Kadena is expected to drop between \$22 and \$180 (depending on rank) Nov. 1.

- 18th Security Forces Squadron members are highlighted for their defense efforts at Prince Sultan Air Base, Saudi Arabia.



QUICK shots



Air Force/Staff Sgt. Chenzira Mallory
Secretary of the Air Force Dr. James Roche talks with Kadena enlisted members at the Marshall Dining Facility Nov. 22 as part of his three-day visit to Kadena. Roche departed Kadena for Yokota Air Base, Japan, and on to bases in South Korea as part of a holiday season visit to Pacific Air Forces bases.



Air Force/Staff Sgt. Chenzira Mallory



Air Force/Staff Sgt. Chenzira Mallory
ABOVE: Chief Master Sgt. Anthony Bishop, 18th Wing command chief, watches as Senior Airman Charles Pickett, 18th Wing honor guard, performs a rifle movement. Bishop took over as the command chief Nov. 9. LEFT: Senior Airman Ben Green of the 18th Communications Squadron raises his tool bucket and cleaning supplies while working on a Kadena antenna.



NOVEMBER 1

- At Chapel 2, Kadena mourned the death of Senior Airman April Hafner, 18th Aerospace Medicine Squadron. Hafner drowned after being swept into the ocean Oct. 26.
- PACAF officials announced that Kadena units deployed in Air and Space Expeditionary Force 7 this year will change to AEF 10 next year.
- Base workgroup managers prep for new Information Management Tool software, a replacement for Formflow.



NOVEMBER 8

- Thousands of Kadena residents walked outside Gate 2 to celebrate friendship with their Okinawa City neighbors during the 10th Annual Okinawa International Carnival Nov. 1-3.
- 18th Medical Group officials prepare to distribute anthrax vaccine to airmen deploying to "high-threat" areas.
- Eighteen Kadena Senior NCOs selected for top enlisted rank.



NOVEMBER 15

- Eighteen Kadena senior NCOs celebrated making chief with an icebreaker at the Rocker NCO Club.
- The 18th Maintenance Squadron was recognized as one of the best maintenance units in the Defense Department during a maintenance symposium in Reno, Nev., Nov. 4.
- Pacific Command officials imposed a new order requiring both military and civilian personnel to prepare travel plan checklists prior to leave or temporary duty travel.



NOVEMBER 22

- Chief Master Sgt. Anthony Bishop outlined his goals as the new 18th Wing Command Chief Master Sergeant.
- Medics from the 353rd Special Operations Group tested their casualty evacuation skills.
- The Kadena High School newspaper, *Panther Prowl*, won first place in a competition against 10 other Pacific Rim schools.

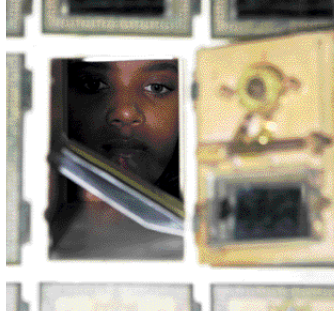


NOVEMBER 29

- Secretary of the Air Force Dr. James Roche visited Kadena. Roche addressed troop concerns about maintenance, host-nation diplomacy, integrating joint information technologies and the importance of professional development.
- Airmen Against Drunk Driving organization passed 500th "save" mark.
- The 33rd Rescue Squadron and other Kadena units participated in Keen Sword exercise in mainland Japan.



QUICK shots



Air Force/Airman 1st Class Paul Fabrie
Airman 1st Class Erin Dorn, 18th Security Forces Squadron, hands an enlarged version of a proclamation to Brig. Gen. Jeffrey Remington, 18th Wing commander, Dec. 3 to mark the beginning of Drunken Driving Awareness Month.



Air Force/Staff Sgt. C. E. Lewis
A group of family members from the 44th Fighter Squadron wait for the return of their spouses Dec. 10 at Kadena's passenger terminal. More than 260 airmen returned home after spending approximately three months in Southwest Asia enforcing the no-fly zones in Iraq during Air and Space Expeditionary Force 5.



Air Force/Staff Sgt. C. E. Lewis
Kelsey Price sings "Can't Fight The Moonlight" during the annual Christmas Village celebration at the Schilling Recreation Center earlier this month. More than 9,000 visited the 18th Services Squadron-sponsored event Dec. 6-8.

DECEMBER 6

- Military leaders on Okinawa focused on the prevention of drunk driving by proclaiming December as "Drunken Driving Awareness Month." Brig. Gen. Jeffrey Remington, 18th Wing commander, signed a proclamation supporting the island-wide initiative. Earlier in the week, the Okinawa Prefectural Police announced that Okinawa had the worst record of Driving Under the Influence cases in Japan. According to the *Okinawa Times*, Okinawa has had the worst record for DUIs for the last 14 years and as of October, the prefecture was still the nation's leader. Some of the reasons Okinawa has led the nation, according to police officials, is the lack of a railway system and the apparent lack of public concern over the severity of DUIs.

- Military and civilian volunteers at Postal Service Center 80 and the Air Postal Squadron have been working overtime the past few weeks trying to get holiday mail and packages to their recipients on time. On average, the PSC workers handle more than 10,000 letters, 4,000 magazines and 3,000 packages per day. At the Air Postal Squadron, workers off-load approximately 1.25 million pounds of mail each month bound for all military installations on Okinawa.



DECEMBER 13

- More than 260 airmen from Kadena returned home after serving three months in Southwest Asia as part of Air and Space Expeditionary Force 5.

- With the holidays just around the corner, many Kadena residents "chipped in" this year to help make the season more cheerful for those less fortunate. Hundreds of airmen and their families donated gifts, food and their time to local Okinawan orphans, handicapped children and others who may need a little extra holiday cheer.

- Combined Federal Campaign officials announced that this year's program was a complete success. Kadena raised more than \$394,000 from about one-third of the base who participated in the campaign. The average contribution made by base members this year was \$198 per person. The goal was \$128 per person. CFC officials said that 27 units at Kadena will receive contribution awards this year.

- 18th Wing officials continued its Drunken Driving Awareness Month by reiterating the importance of getting a ride home if someone has been drinking.

